

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 3.19.07
SB 89

Chairman Rick Jore
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Jore and members of the Education Committee,

I am the Labor/Delivery and Nursery Manager at Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC) in Kalispell, MT and I am writing to offer my thoughts on Senate Bill 89, which is before your committee. Last month I wrote to Sen. Barkus and shared these same thoughts with him.

I firmly believe breast milk is the best nutrition for babies and that more should be done to promote breastfeeding. I do support the primary goal of Senate Bill 89, which is to provide support to breastfeeding moms once they return to work, since returning to work is one of the reasons many moms stop breastfeeding. However, I am concerned with some of the language in the Senate Bill 89, and the negative effect it will have on moms in Montana.

Greater than 90% of the moms who give birth at KRMC chose to breastfeed and are absolutely supported in this decision. However, some moms are unable to or choose not to breastfeed their babies. The moms who choose to feed their infants formula are entitled to the same level of care, support and encouragement as the moms who breastfeed. So, I am concerned specifically about the language in Senate Bill 89 that implies moms who do not breastfeed are placing their babies at risk for developing diseases such as leukemia, cancer, and diabetes. I feel this will mislead moms into believing they will do serious harm to their babies if they do not, or cannot breastfeed. I am unaware of any conclusive scientific evidence that supports this language.

Therefore, I urge you to focus on the positive aspects of the Senate Bill 89 and remove the negative language from the bill. I feel the goal of promoting and supporting breastfeeding can be accomplished without scaring moms and creating unnecessary feelings of guilt during what should be a joyous time in their lives.

Sincerely,

Mindy Tuzioy, RNC
Labor/Delivery, Nursery Manager